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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

A new library is slated for the Village of Lawrencetown thanks to a private donation from the family of the late Dr. Frank Morse. Construction of the new facility is slated for completion by August 2002.

Several AVRL staff members attended the October NSLA conference held this year in Cape Breton. Those attending all had positive reports on the workshops, and the conference in general.

October 29 was AVRL's Fall In-Service for Branch Managers. Topics included: the Web Catalogue, the Virtual Library Project, Library Cards for Computer users, and Statistics. As well, the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee provided an overview of the new Health and Safety Program. Responsibilities of management, supervisors, department heads, and all employees were emphasized. Issues such as safe lifting procedures, and the use of fire extinguishers were also addressed.

A sample of fall programs offered by AVRL include: Tiny Tales, preschool story time at the Wolfville branch; Study Hall at the Windsor branch which is opening its doors on an evening the library is not open to the general public to accommodate students who want to use the print resources and computers for homework help; and Tea Time Seniors Chat offered at five branches where seniors are invited to bring their mugs and computer questions – no computer experience necessary.

Sebastian McBride, AVRL patron, age 4, is shown receiving his provincial SRP prize from Kingston Branch staff member, Andrea Leeson. Note the "Bug Wall" in the background - part of a display area for the popular Dead Bug Contest.

EASTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY (ECRL)

Even teachers go to class! ECRL extended an invitation to schools in the area to participate in Web Training workshops. Several schools took advantage of this opportunity and invited facilitator, Donna Doyle, to present a workshop during an in service day. The

session introduced teachers to the ECRL web site, and showed them first hand the benefits of accessing the collection, and magazine, and reference databases. By morning's end, teachers had been issued library cards, had requested books, and were knowledgeable about the many services that the library offers.

ECRL's signs have arrived! With nine Libr@ry Links in operation in rural communities, each offering a specific range of hours of operation that may change with the seasons, the task at hand was to provide signage that would be easily recognized. Since many of the Links are in community centres, and schools, the signs were designed to be placed in a window or at the entrance to the Links site. The bright yellow signs are now in place, linking the rural communities of ECRL!

Library staff Joyce Rankin and Lesley Carruthers were thrilled to visit the Word on the Street Book Fair. They volunteered some time at the Provincial Library Booth, promoting the Summer Reading Program, selling its wares, and providing bookmarks, pencils, and Hackmatack posters to hundreds of visitors to the booth.

ECRL is always appreciative of contributions. Recently, a book trolley was donated to the Cyril Ward Memorial Library in Guysborough by Dr. Lauder Brunton.

During the fall, patrons at the new CAP site in Marie Joseph, District of St. Mary's, learned to search and request books and information online. New library cards were issued and patrons searched for everything from quilt patterns to custom car restoration.

HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY (HRL)

Kids Website Launch

The Halifax Regional Library recently launched Kids@HRL, http://www.halifax.library.ns.ca/

kids, a site for and about kids. The event was held at Dartmouth's Alderney Gate Library. Some of the services to be featured on the new site include: "Ask A Librarian", where kids e-mail reference questions to librarians, and receive a direct response, "What Do I Read Next", a service which provides young readers with personalized lists of recommended titles, an on-line kids book club, on-line homework help sessions, links to other sites, and a section just for parents and teachers. The site can also be reached by clicking through the Library's full-service e-branch site at http://www.halifax.library.ns.ca.

Tantallon Branch Opens With Great Fanfare

The new Tantallon Public Library held its official opening on Saturday, October 13, with approximately 1500 visitors passing through the new branch. On hand to lend a festive air to the event, was the Tantallon Community Concert band, who kicked off the day's festivities. Kids were then entertained by the rollicking good rhythms of StorySong Express, while adults relaxed to the sounds of saxophonist Jeff Goodspeed. Among those who attended, and spoke at the opening event were the Honourable Jane Purves, Minister of Education, M.P. Geoff Regan, M.L.A.s' Bill Estabrooks and John Chataway, His Worship Mayor Peter Kelly, and Councillors Gary Meade and Bob Harvey. The new full-service, 12,000 square foot library will service an area previously served by Mobile Library Service. The facility contains a large, bookable meeting room, a multi-media collection, 15 public access computer terminals, study and reading areas, as well as a pre-school area. It will also feature both children's and adult programming.

Two young library patrons check out one of the library's brand new computers at the Tantallon branch.

A happy prize winner poses with HRL Promotions Coordinator Terri Fraser.

Summer Reading Program 2001 - A "Bug-a-licious" Success!!

Well, the statistics are in and the verdict is clear - kids all over HRM LOVED the 2001 Summer Reading Program with the theme, *Don't Bug Me! I'm Reading*. All aspects of the program showed impressive increases over the previous year with a 12% increase in registration, a 10 % increase in children who reached their reading goal, a 12 % increase in children who exceeded their reading goal, and a 21 % increase in books read. The grand total of 59,154 books read, showed an impressive increase from the 48,873 books read for the 2000 Summer Reading Program!

HRL was fortunate again this year to receive a $10,000 donation from the Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation in support of our Summer Reading Program. This generous donation enabled HRL to more effectively promote the program, to provide extra incentives to our young readers, and to generally have a higher profile - all of which greatly contributed to the program's overall success.

PICTOU-ANTIGONISH REGIONAL LIBRARY (PARL)

Truro resident Steve Proctor recently dropped in to entertain PARL's regular Story Time Group. Steve read from his new book, *The Ghost and the Fire Station* which will be published in February 2002.

As well, Mr. Proctor is working on other ambitious projects and is open for invitations to read at other regional libraries.

Award-winning Newfoundland author, Donna Morrissey, read to a full house of delighted fans in PARL's Program Room on October 24.

Always a crowd pleaser, Donna read passages from her still popular first novel, *Kit's Law*, answering many questions surrounding her life, and the writing process. The reading itself was nothing less than riveting. Charged with raw emotion, and the spirit of her homeland, one could not help being moved by her performance and wonder if an acting career lay in her future. As the winner of the Canadian Booksellers Association first-time author of the year award, her many fans look forward to spring 2002 when her second novel, *Downhill Chance,* is scheduled for release.

Bernice Cameron, PARL's CAP Coordinator, is currently working on a new project with Becky Bowman, the Children and Youth Technology Coordinator for elementary-aged children. Called the Kids' TAG (Tech After-school Group), it was formed to teach children about computers in a fun and inviting library setting. Topics of instruction will include basic computer applications, familiarization with digital cameras, scanning images, e-mail, and making basic web pages.

On October 10, PARL's regional CAP Committee held the official grand opening ceremony for the new CAP site in the Westville Library. On hand to mark the occasion was CAP Coordinator, Bernice Cameron, and Fred Popowich, Deputy Chief Librarian. Many interested town residents and supporters dropped by to meet the staff, and dedicated volunteers, as well as enjoy some refreshments.

In mid-October Sound Venture Productions, an independent Ottawa film producer, dropped into PARL's headquarters to tape segments of a documentary they are making on behalf of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP are very interested in Constable John Kennedy's Adopt A Library Literacy Program, and his innovative methods of managing youth crime. His story is one of many which was selected from many across Canada. The stories are to illustrate how officers are reaching out to our youth and attempting to reduce crime in our communities. The video will be used as an internal learning tool in the RCMP's departments, and in youth judicial systems, but will not be available for public viewing.

Constable John Kennedy (right) is very involved in PARL's Adopt A Library Literacy Program, and here he is being interviewed by staff from Sound Venture Productions on his innovative methods of managing youth crime.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, NOVA SCOTIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (LIT)

The Nova Scotia Community College is pleased to announce the appointment of Keith MacKinnon to the position of Halifax Campus Librarian. Keith comes to the College from the Cumberland Regional Library where he was an Assistant Librarian, and served as the reference librarian for the region. Keith has also been employed at the university libraries at Saint Mary's and Mount Allison. Welcome aboard Keith!

Additional new staff members include Debbie Costelo, Public Services Librarian replacing David Colborne. Debbie was formerly Halifax and Institute of Technology Regional Librarian. Kimberly Johnson assumes the position of Regional Librarian responsible for Truro, Cumberland, and Pictou Campuses. Best wishes to Sheila Pearl on her retirement from this position.

Campus Libraries welcome members of the community to borrow, browse and become aware

of our great library services. This includes several special collections covering such topics as community economic development, quality assurance, and entrepreneurship. Most Campus Libraries have convenient evening and weekend access. Several Campus Libraries are also CAP site locations.

In additional news, the Library and Information Technology program at the Kingstec Campus has moved to Halifax. The Halifax Campus is now the only site for the Library and Information Technology program in the province. The Kingstec program brought with them a large collection of library related materials which will shortly be found in the Novanet catalogue. Much of the material will be housed at the Halifax Campus library. Check out the Nova Scotia Community College Library website at http://www.nscc.ns.ca/lrc for a link to Novanet, and other College library information.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES (SLIS)

In conjunction with the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Library Boards Association of NS, the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), Dalhousie University was honoured to sponsor a visit by Dr. Charles (Chuck) McClure. Dr McClure is the Francis Eppes Professor of Information Studies, and the Director of the Information Use Management and Policy Institute, School of Information Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee. Dr. McClure delivered a lecture, and a workshop on the theme of "Key Issues in the Transition to the Networked Environment." Both events were well attended by members of the public and academic library communities, as well as, students, and faculty from SLIS.

On October 26, SLIS welcomed Allen Penney, a Halifax architect, and writer, to discuss "The Architecture of Libraries: The Legacy of Peisistratus," as part of the School's Friday Lecture Series. This Series continued on November 2, with the lecture "I Can't Get no...Satisfaction, or Can I?' A Study of On-line Interpretive Communities," to be delivered by Professor DeNel Rehberg Sedo, Mount Saint Vincent University.

For further information about these or any other SLIS activities and programmes, contact the Director, Bertrum MacDonald, at macdonal@is.dal.ca, (902) 494-2472 or visit the web site at http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

STAFFING

The Provincial Library welcomes Susan Slaunwhite, who joined us as Secretary on October 15. Susan comes from within the Department of Education where she has been working most recently with Regional Education Services, and previously with English Programs Services, and Adult Learning & Innovation.

Don Goss, a long-time Provincial Library employee has been assigned to the Bargaining Unit Job Evaluation Committee for a period of 18-24 months. This committee is charged with evaluating the job fact sheets for every bargaining unit position in the Provincial Government as part of the Bargaining Unit Classification Review Project. We wish Don well in his new assignment.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

LIBRARYNet

The LibraryNet Advisory Board met in Ottawa on October 25 & 26, 2001. LibraryNet is a co-operative venture on the part of Canada's public libraries, library jurisdictions and agencies, librarians, and Industry Canada to encourage libraries as they define new roles for themselves as economic incubators, community development agents, distributors of electronic information, and centers for life-long learning, and to help Canadian libraries connect to the information highway and to one another.

The LibraryNet Advisory Board consists of the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors, and representatives from the National Library of Canada, the Canadian Library Association (CLA), the Council of Administrators of Large Public Libraries (CALUPL), Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation (ASTED), and Industry

Canada.

The focus of the meeting was how libraries can assist Industry Canada in achieving its Connecting Canadians agenda. Presentations were heard from SchoolNet, CAP (Community Access Program), the Information Highway Applications Branch (IHAB), Government on Line, the Media Awareness Network, HRDC's Innovation Agenda, and Web4All.

Following the presentations, the Board began the work of updating the vision for LibraryNet, and developing an action plan for the next 2 to 3 years. Work groups will be developing some strategic directions relating to the federal agenda in the areas of lifelong learning, the digital divide, infrastructure, content, human resources, communications, and research, which will be presented to Industry Canada by the end of March 2002.

The group also spent a morning with staff of the National Library hearing reports on the National Library's work in the area of collections, the campaign for a new building, the library book rate, and the Collaborative Digital Reference Service project.

NSLA CONFERENCE

*Step we gaily, on we go...*NSLA Conference 2001 was held at the North Star Inn in North Sydney, October 19-21. More than 80 people attended this successful conference, and had an interesting, and enjoyable time. Darce Fardy, Review Officer, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Review Office, delivered the keynote address, describing the role of freedom of information legislation, and encouraging Nova Scotians to exercise their rights under the Act. Sessions were presented on a variety of topics, from library fund-raising, to virtual archives, to MARC records. A complete conference schedule is available at: http://www.nsla.ns.ca/conference.html . The banquet on Saturday night was very well attended, and gave people an opportunity to learn and practice step dancing. At the Annual General Meeting, the membership passed resolutions urging the provincial government to fill any vacant regional library board appointments as soon as possible, and adding NSLA's support to lobbying efforts for a new building for the National Library. A full account of the conference will be published in the next issue of the NSLA newsletter. The fall 2002 conference will be a joint conference with the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia, and will be held in Yarmouth.

PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK 2001

Libraries: where the future begins **was the theme of Nova Scotia's first annual Public Library Week. Public libraries in P.E.I. and Nova Scotia shared the theme and poster for this year's week. The dates were chosen to coincide with similar weeks in New Brunswick and other provinces. The focus of the week was to promote the services of public libraries, and encourage people to visit their local public library during the week. Events and promotional activities were held across the province, and libraries received coverage in newspapers, radio, and television. One of the highlights of the week was a series of appearances on Breakfast Television. Library staff members used the opportunity to highlight library services such as the Summer Reading Program, remote library use over the web, and more traditional outreach services such as Books by Mail, and bookmobiles. The Library Public Awareness Group will be meeting in November to evaluate the success of Public Library Week, and discuss plans for next year.**

COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS FALL MEETING

The Council of Regional Librarians held their fall meeting in Pictou, October 18-19. Among the highlights:

•Building on ideas from the workshop presented by Charles McClure in September, a committee has been struck to look at statistics gathering. The committee will make recommendations on which statistics currently collected are useful, and look at other ways of measuring library services, in particular electronic services.

•Digital reference services were discussed, and a meeting will be held in December to continue the discussion and explore potential cooperation in the provision of such services.

•Bernice Cameron presented an overview of the classification and signage project currently underway in the Northern CAP Region.

•A discussion was held on planning and priority setting for the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, facilitated by Donna Hendy (NS Dept. of Education). A follow up meeting will be held later in November.

•NSPL staff will work with the Southern Ontario Library Service to bring a trainer from Ontario to conduct a session on their "The Library's Contribution to your Community" program.

SHARING ALTERNATE FORMAT MATERIALS WORKSHOP

On Friday, October 12, 2001, The Nova Scotia Provincial Library hosted a day long workshop, *Sharing Alternate Format Library Materials*. Peter Webster, Manager of the Ferguson Library at St. Mary's University, was the workshop facilitator. This workshop was attended by 18 staff members from the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries and the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Peter started his presentation by providing an overview of issues affecting the print disabled in Canada and their special materials needs. He talked about the issues identified by the National Library of Canada and CNIB joint Task Force on Access to Information for the Print Disabled Canadians. He also discussed the needs for the print disabled in Nova Scotia. Peter gave a demonstration of alternate format materials available from the AMICUS union catalogue and discussed the borrowing and lending of these materials across Canada and beyond. A segment of the workshop was devoted to discussing E-text for alternate format users. Participants were given the opportunity to test some examples of E-text and were also provided with assignments to do. These assignments provided workshop attendees with hands-on experience with alternate formats.

WORD ON THE STREET 2001

For the seventh consecutive year, the Nova Scotia Provincial Library took part in the annual Word on the Street (WOTS) event, held on Sunday, Sept. 30.

Due to the numerous problems with the weather in the past few years, for the first time, WOTS was held at Pier 20, rather than its usual venue of Spring Garden Rd. Once again, the Provincial Library booth was shared with the Hackmatack Children's Choice award.

Staff from Provincial Library were joined by volunteers Lesley Carruthers and Joyce Rankin, both from ECRL, all of whom helped to promote the Summer Reading Program (SRP). A record number of remaining Summer Reading Program (SRP) sweatshirts and posters were sold, and information sheets on the SRP were distributed to those visiting the booth. A great time was had by all!

HACKMATACK AWARD UPDATE

With the recent departure of Monika Sormova as Hackmatack co-ordinator to a position with the Writers' Federation, Norene Smiley has taken on the job of new Hackmatack co-ordinator. Norene will be in the Hackmatack office, located at Provincial Library, on Tuesdays and Thursdays until work for the author tours and May award ceremony increases in the spring. Norene reports that a total of 242 reading groups have registered to date, and that kits have been sent to all registered groups. And, as the 2002 activities continue, the selection process for the 2003 book list has already begun!

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Here are some more reference questions referred to the Provincial Library by the Regional Public Libraries which were answered using resources found on the Internet.

Q. The patron wants how-to information on making duck call whistles.

A. Different combinations of search terms were tried (i.e. duck call whistles, making duck whistles, construction duck call whistles, etc.) at the Google search engine http://www.google.com. The combination which worked was "making duck call". Leaving out the word "whistle" made all the difference in this case, in finding some useful information. The resulting information was three articles which have the requested how-to information: *The Call of the Wild* by J. Mark Shoup at http://www.customcalls.com/makeaduckcall.htm; *Making Duck Calls* by David Schneider athttp://home.mn.rr.com/qew/DuckCalls/qqduckcallmaking.html; *The Making of a Duck Call* by Dave Larsen at http://www.mightylayoutboys.com/resources/tips/general_refs/duck_call.htm.

Q. The patron wants how-to information on making wooden gears or movements in clocks.

A. Nothing was found on this using various combinations of the search words "making, wooden, gears, movements, clocks" so using the Google search engine the search was broadened to sites on horology. This strategy found a page titled *Clocks and Time* at http://www.ubr.com/clocks/ and this page has a Clockmaking & Watchmaking section (http://www.ubr.com/clocks/cwmake/cwmake.html) where there is a list of organizations including the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors at http://www.nawcc.

org/. This association has a link to the online catalogue of the Library and Research Centre of The National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pennsylvania at http://www.nawcc.org/Library/libframe.htm. A search of the catalogue turned up two publications, *How to make a wooden wheeled clock* and *How to make a wooden wheeled clock and Dead centre turning*. Both of these publications have "Wood movements" as a subject heading. Arrangements can be made with the library to borrow the material through interlibrary loan. The catalogue also lists books on wooden clock making which may be suitable.

LINKed

The busy holiday toy buying season is here once again so to provide help some of the sites featured in this month's Linked column have consumer oriented information on toys while others have information about the toy industry such as statistics and sales data on best selling toys.

The Canadian Toy Testing Council at http://www.toy-testing.org/ has the full text of the 2001 and 2000 editions of the Toy Report Online. In addition, the site has several other useful features. The *What's the buzz?* section has articles about issues of concern to parents when buying toys. Advice on what to look for when buying certain kinds of toys and the best toys based on types of play (i.e. active play, arts & crafts, winter play, etc.) can be found in *The Toy Chest. The Gold Stars* section features toys which won the Children's Choice Award for the past five years. There is a lengthy list of toy manufacturers with addresses in the *Keep in Touch* section.

The Oppenheim Toy Portfolio at http://www.toyportfolio.com/ is produced by a New York based organization which independently reviews products for children including toys, videos, books, music, and software. Products are selected by experts in child development, children's literature, and education, and kids themselves. Thousands of product reviews grouped by age are available on the web site. The TV & Article Archive at http://www.toyportfolio.com/TVArchives/TVArchives.asp has articles such as *Best Birthday Party Presents: Under $25, $20 and $10*, *Travel Toys*, *Outdoor Toys* and *Educational Toys* which are mainly based on the producers appearances on NBC's Today Show.

Another site with toy reviews is Dr. Toy's Online Guide at http://www.drtoy.com/drtoy/ which has information on toys, dolls, games, puzzles, books, software, CD-ROMs, audio and video discs and tapes, creative materials, and construction toys. Reviews are arranged by 100 Best Products, 10 Best Items By Type, Best Vacation Products and Best Classic Toys.

The final site with consumer information is Toy Tips at http://www.toytips.com/. The toy reviews here are based on research done at The Toy Research Institute, St. Louis College of Education, University of Missouri. In the Reviews section toys are arranged by age group. The site also has articles on safety and many other relevant issues concerning toys for the various age groups. There is a search page at http://www.toytips.com/search/search.html where a search can be done for a particular toy.

The Toy Industry Association, Inc. at http://www.toy-tma.com/index.html is an American organization which has Annual Lists of Top-Selling Toys from 1994 to present at http://www.toy-tia.org/industry/news/topselling/index.html. Another interesting feature is Classic Toys at http://www.toy-tia.org/industry/news/classic.html where there is a list of classic toys that are still on the market, along with their first year of introduction and current manufacturer. The site also has the full text of *Guide to Toys for Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired* at http://www.toy-tia.org/industry/publications/blindcurrent/contents.htm and *Fun Play, Safe Play: A Guide from the Toy Industry Foundation* at http://www.toy-tia.org/industry/publications/fpsp/fpsp.html .

The U.S. trade magazine Playthings is online at http://www.playthings.com/. It covers the latest toy industry news and there are monthly lists of best selling toys starting in December 2000.

Web sites which were featured in previous "Linked" columns are now arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at http://www.library.ns.ca/reference/index.html If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at morrisc@gov.ns.ca

PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, two recently acquired books on library management are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send requests via email to Dale MacMillan at inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

Giesecke, Joan - *Practical strategies for library managers*. Chicago : American Library Association, 2001. Call #: PROF 025 .1 Gie
This book is intended to address the needs of library middle managers rather than top level managers and directors. The author outlines strategies to be used to manage a unit regardless of whether the librarian's role is as a department head, team leader or unit head. It is comprised of ten chapters dealing with everything from planning and decision making skills to how to take charge of a library department.

Weingand, Darlene E. - *Administration of the small public library*. 4th ed. Chicago : American Library Association, 2001. Call #: PROF 025 .1974 Wei
This is the fourth revised edition of a book which has evolved into a standard text of educational preparation for library staff in small public libraries. This edition builds on the previous third edition which placed emphasis on managing change, marketing the library and promoting the perception of the library as a business with customers as opposed to patrons. This fourth edition introduces features and concepts such as selective dissemination of information (SDI), the importance of vision, service responses, multiple objective sets, the relationship between cost and demand, grantsmanship, program budgeting and non-monetary compensation. The central theme of this book is that accountability is paramount in the minds of funding authorities and the library that demonstrates an essential involvement in the life of the community, with clear responses to identified community needs, is the library that will earn sufficient resources to continue and expand its role.

Credits go to:
Louise Spiteri, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information studies, Dalhousie University
Marie DeYoung, Director, Library Services, NS Community College

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